

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is the answer to an amendment filed on 1/24/2008. Claims 1-11 are pending; wherein claims 3-4, and 11 are canceled.

Drawings

2. Formal drawings filed on 4/22/2003 are accepted.

Examiner's amendment:

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The title of this invention is changed to: "An automobile navigation device with guidance".

Allowable subject matter

4. Pending claims 1-2, and 5-10 are patentable over a closest reference of Yamashita et al. (US Pat. 6,505,120), or Ihara et al. (US Pat. 6,336,073), or De Villeroche (US Pat. 4,951,211) because these prior art do not make obvious an automobile navigation device, comprising:

a data storage unit for storing map data;

a destination designating section unit for designating a destination;

a position deriving unit for deriving a current position of a user;

a route receiving unit for receiving route data. the route data representing a route, from the current position derived by the position deriving unit, to the destination designated by the destination designating unit, and the route data being obtained according to by means of the map data stored in the data storage unit;

a data selecting unit for selecting candidate location data, the candidate location data indicating at least one location existing on the route represented by the route data or in a vicinity of the route and satisfying a predetermined condition, the candidate location data being selected based on the route data received by the route receiving unit and the map data stored in the data storage unit;

a location-change designating unit for designating a location of change at which a method of guidance guiding method is to be changed, the location of change being designated based on the candidate location data selected by the data selecting unit;

a determination unit, for determining whether or not the user has reached the location of change, based on the current position derived by the position deriving unit and the location of change designated by the location-change designating unit; and

a navigation guidance unit for:

(i) guiding the user to the destination using detailed instructions associated with a method of guidance designated with a relatively detailed method, when the determination section unit determines that the user has arrived at the location of change, and

(ii) performing no process of navigation guidance while the determination unit determines that the user has not arrived at the location of change,

wherein the location-change designating- unit includes:

a priority assigning unit for assigning a priority to the location indicated by the candidate location data selected by the data selecting unit:

an output unit for outputting the-a location indicated by the candidate location data selected by the data selecting unit in accordance with the priority assigned by the priority

assigning unit; and

a location-change selecting unit for selecting one location of change based on a designation from the user.

Conclusion

5. Claims 1-2, and 5-10 are allowed, they are renumbered as claims 1-8.
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CUONG H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-6759. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, THOMAS G. BLACK can be reached on 571-272-6956. The Rightfax number for the organization where this application is assigned is 571-273-6956.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/CUONG H. NGUYEN/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3661

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